United Brethren
in Christ

Extracts from the written journal of the proceedings of the General Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, from 1815 to 1873 inclusive.

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EXTRACTS

FROM THE

WRITTEN JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

General Conference

OF THE

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST,

FROM 1815 TO 1873 INCLUSIVE.

PRINTED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MESSRS. GUNCKEL & ROWE AND JOHN A. M'MAHON, ATTORNEYS FOR THE "LIBERALS," AND MESSRS. WILLIAM LAWRENCE, G. W. HOUK, AND YOUNG & YOUNG, ATTORNEYS FOR THE "RADICALS."

TO BE ADMITTED AS EVIDENCE IN ALL CASES WHEREIN THESE ATTORNEYS ARE EMPLOYED.

DAYTON, OHIO:
UNITED BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE,
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GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1815.

The first General Conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ was held June 6, 1815, near Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania.

The delegates elected by the several annual conferences were

1 Christian Newcomer
2 Abraham Heistand
3 Andrew Zeller
4 Daniel Tryer
5 George Benedum
6 Christian Crum
7 Isaac Niswander
8 Henry Spayth
9 John Snyder
10 Abraham Meyer
11 Henry Kumler
12 Abraham Draksel
13 Christian Berger
14 Jacob Bowlus.

Bishop Newcomer in the chair.

Abraham Heistand was elected chairman.

Conference was opened by reading the 5 chapter of 1 Peter, singing and prayer, after which conference proceeded to business.

There was found much misunderstanding and prejudice by some of the brethren, and it was only slowly and by and by, that this gave way.

A letter from Christoph Grosh was read, as coming from a conference (so-called); it was evident, that they had not given the matter due consideration.

A complaint was brought by Bro Bonnet against Br Newcommer, as having told a falshood. A committee of three P Elders was appointed to investigate the case and it was found that there was only a mistake made and that no charges whatever could be found against Br Newcomer.

The revision of the confession of faith and rules of Discipline of the church were attended to, some small alterations were made and then resolved to have them printed.

JACOB BOWLUS, *Sec'y.*

PAGES 16 AND 17 OF GENERAL CONFERENCE JOURNAL.

SLAVERY.

Resolved, That in no sense of the word shall slavery in whatsoever form it may exist, be tolerated in our church, and that no slaveholder making application for membership, shall be received, and that if any member be found to possess slaves, he (or she) cannot remain a member, unless he (or she) manumit his or slaves as soon as notified to by the annual conference; that no member shall have the previlege of selling any of his slaves; that it shall be in the power of the annual conference to say whether a slaveholder as member of our church shall have the previlege of hiring out any of his slaves, and for how long a time; but in no case shall an annual conference have the power of granting to any slaveholder the previlege of hiring out or holding any of his slaves for any longer time than until such slave shall by his labor have remunerated his master for raising or purchasing him.

PAGE 17 OF JOURNAL.

Bro. Benedum moved that no preacher shall be allowed to carry on a distillery.

Bro. Brown moved to amend the motion by striking out the word "preacher" and inserting the word "member."

It was then resolved that neither preacher nor lay member shall be allowed to carry on a distillery.

PAGE 18 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved That if a member openly commits an offense he or she shall be openly reproved, and if he or she refuses to humble himself or herself he or she shall be openly expelled from the church.

GENERAL CONFERENCE JOURNAL, 1825.

PAGE 19 OF JOURNAL.

At the opening of conference Bro Newcomer read the 25 chap of Matthew attended with singing, prayer and an exhortation to unfeigned love of the Brethren.

Question. What shall be the first business of conference?

Answer. The revision of discipline from the commencement, in regular order to the end of it.

Sect 1 An addition to the first section was moved which was referred to a committee consisting of Bros John George Pfrimer, Henry Kumler, Abraham Meyer, John Hildt and George Huffman.

May the 8th The above com reported as follows;

That from henceforth it shall not be lawful from one preacher to censure or condemn whether in private or in public, the mode of baptism of another, and whosoever shall make himself guilty of such act shall upon discovery, be considered a defamer and be held accountable to next annual conference.

After due consideration of the above report it was unanimously adopted.

PAGES 20 TO 21 OF JOURNAL.

At the examination of applicants for license to preach, the questions heretofore put to such shall be stricken out and the following proposed:

Have you found God in Christ to be a sin-pardoning, and yourself experienced your sins?

Have you peace with God, and is the love of God, through the Holy Spirit, shed abroad in your heart?

Do you follow after holiness?

Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God, and that therein only is contained the true way to our salvation?

Upon what is this belief founded?

What is your notion for desiring permission to preach the Gospel?

What is your knowledge of Repentance, Justification, Sanctification and Redemption?

PAGE 22 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved. That John Hildt and Valentine Doubt see to having our discipline, as it now stands revised, printed.

Question. Who shall partake of, and whom shall we admit and invite to the Lord's Supper?

Answer. First all true Christians and, secondly, all who are penitent, seeking the salvation of their souls.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1829.

PAGE 25 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved. That in no way or manner, nor in any sense of the word, shall Freemasonry be approved or tolerated in our church; and that should any one of our church members, who may now be a Freemason continue to

attend their lodges, or as a Freemason attend and take part in their procession; or if he joins the freemasons; such member by such an act excludes himself from membership in our church.

PAGE 26 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved. That hereafter, none of our brethren, whether a preacher or a lay member shall be allowed to publish a book or pamphlet, without permission from an annual conference.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1833.

PAGE 29 OF JOURNAL.

May 14th 1833 the members of the General Conf of the United Brethren in Christ met in Ross Co., O.

There were present

Henry Kumler, *Bishop.*

Pennsylvania Conference
Ezekiel Boring
William Brown
Jacob Erb
James Neiman
Jacob Snyder
Frederick Gilbert

Virginia Conference.
William R Rhinehart

Muskingum Conference
Henry G Spayth
John Eckhart
Adam Hetsler
Christian Kengi
S C Briggs

Scioto Conference
John Russel
William Hastings
Jacob Baulus
James Ross
George Benedum
Samuel Heistand
Daniel Davis
John Kuhns.

Miami Conf.
Henry Kumler Jr
Abram S Decker
Jno Fetterhoff
David Keiser
Samuel Hoffman
George Bonebrake
Jno Swearigen

Indiana Conference
John Denham
Josiah Davis
James Griffith
Jno McNamer
Aaron Farmer
Francis Whitcom.

Bros Rhinehart and Spayth were elected secretaries.

Resolved 1st That the word "flesh" on page 20 (Dicipline 1825) be stricken out, and the word "body" be inserted; and where it reads: "the outward means of grace," that this be stricken out and inserted; "We believe, that the ordinance of Baptism and the commemoration of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ" etc

Page 26 instead of "two" read "one or more Bishops."

Same page—The general conference, shall in no way or manner, alter the Confession of faith as it now stands, whether by adding thereto or by taking therefrom.

PAGE 30 OF JOURNAL.

Page 24th. Ques. How and in what manner shall the Delegates to the General Conference be elected?

Ans. It shall be the duty of each annual Conference, at its last sitting next preceeding the ensuing General Conference, to nominate four elders,—who have stood in that capacity two years,—from which number two shall be elected by the brethren of the church. It shall further be the duty of each annual conference, to appoint two brethren resident within the bounds of said conference district, as tellers, to receive and count the votes polled for the several candidates,

It shall also be the duty of class leaders, stewards, or preachers, directly after conference to obtain a list of the proposed candidates and present them for election to the several classes, and after such election they shall make a return of said election to the tellers appointed who in the presence of a third brother chosen by themselves, shall open said returns, and after having counted all the votes returned, present the two highest in votes, under their own hand, with a certificate of election: In case of a tie, these three brethren shall determine by lot who shall be considered elected.

Ques. Does General conference possess any power which an annual conf. does not?

Ans. Yes. It is alone in the power of General Conference to elect from among the elder one or more Bishops, for the ensuing four years, and to make such provisions as may be conducive to the good of the whole church;

Provided however, that none of her acts shall be so construed as to alter the confession of faith, or in any manner change the meaning, spirit, rules and regulations of our discipline, as they now stand.

PAGE 31 OF JOURNAL.

The consecration of marriages to be stricken out. Section 7 Ques 3d strike out "exhorter."

PAGE 32 OF JOURNAL.

We the United Brethren in conference assembled, believe that swearing by the Bible, or in the name of Almighty God, is contrary to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, who says, "swear not at all." Affirmation in evidence, where desired to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, we consider in all cases sufficiently binding to the conscience

H G SPAYTH
W R RHINEHART
Secretaries.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, 1837.

PAGE 65 OF JOURNAL.

The General Conference of the United Brethren in Christ convened in Germantown, Montgomery County Ohio, this 9th day of May A D 1837.

A very pathetic discourse was delivered by Bishop Samuel Hiestand at the opening of the Conference, after which, the 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles was read, singing and and prayer by the same.

The conference was successively opened with reading, singing and prayer,—prayer at each adjournment.

The members were next called and examined as to the legality of their election, and found to stand as follows;

	Henry Kumler Samuel Heistand	Bishops
Pennsylvania Conf	Jacob Erb Jacob Winters	
Va Conf	Jacob Rhinehart Jacob Glossbrenner	
Muskingum	Adam Hetsler David Weimer	
Sandusky	John Dorcas George Hiskey	

Scioto	John Coons
	Wm Hanby
Miami	John Featherhoff
	William Stubbs.
Indiana	Francis Whitcom
	John Lopp
Wabash	Frederick Kenoyer
	William Davis

The conference then elected William R Rhinehart secretary of the Conference.

A motion was made by J Rhinehart that a committee of ways and means be appointed to dispose of as well as to secure property belonging to the Church of the U B in Christ. Whereupon the following persons were appointed

viz William Stubbs
George Hiskey
J J Glossbrenner

A Constitution was next presented to the conference by Wm R Rhinehart, praying its adoption, for the better government of the church. After mature deliberation the vote was taken and carried, that its expediency be considered by the conf. After some desultory discussion, the following resolution was submitted to the House by W Hanby.

Resolved. That a Constitution for the better regulation of the Church be adopted.

Which on vote of the conference carried.

The before named constitution was next investigated and adopted, article after article by the unanimous vote, and signature of every member of Conference.

In adoption of this Constitution the conference was well apprised, that they had transcended the right allowed them by discipline; in view of which a motion presented by Bp Heistand that a committee of two be appointed, to write and present to conference now in session, a circular in relation to the Constitution just adopted; informing the constituents of this body, that a memorial will be presented to the next Gen. Conf. praying for the ratification of the same, according to article 4th section 2d.

A motion was made by W Hanby that the signing of the Constitution be postponed until ensuing morning at 8 o'clock, and carried.

A motion was made by Geo Hiskey, that all the Benevolent institutions in our Church come under the control of the Gen Conf; whose duty it shall be to lay down rules by which they shall be governed.

The vote was taken and carried.

On motion of Bp Heistand, *Resolved* that a committee of three be appointed to draft a constitution for the Printing establishment; Whereupon Jacob Erb, W Hanby and J Featherhoff were appointed.

Bp Heistand presented the annual report of the Benevolent Societies.

MARYLAND B SOCIETY—REPORT.

Interest on Bank Stock - - - - -	$94 50	
Surplus dividend from May last - - -	47 25	
Interest on $83.47 for one year - - - -	5 00	
Interest from life Subscribers - - -	22 00–	$168 95

Amount for distribution is $168.95 as above stated. Given under my hand March 20th A D 1837.

JOHN HERSHEY. *Treasurer.*

OHIO B SOCIETY. REPORT

Amt of notes - - - - - -	$775 16	
" subscription notes - - - -	310 00	
Jno Hilts note of hand - - - - -	200 00	
Stock in the Treasury - - - -	10 00–	$1295 16

Interest received and for distribution $100.00. Given from under my hand this 6th day of May 1837.

JOSEPH HEISTAND *Sec.*

The whole amount for distribution was $268.95.

On motion of W Hanby the constitution was signed by the members of conference—and reads as follows

CONSTITUTION AND PREAMBLE.

PREAMBLE.

At a meeting of a General Conference held by the United Brethren in Christ in Germantown, Ohio, May 10, 1837, it was resolved that a constitution should be formed for the better government of the Church.

We as the members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, in order to retain a *perfect union*,—accomplish the ends of *justice and equity*,—insure *ecclesiastical* as well as *domestic tranquility;* provide for the *common interest of the Church*,—promote the *general welfare of society*, and to secure the *blessings* of the *gospel* to *ourselves*, our *posterity*, and our fellow men in *general;* ordain and establish the following CONSTITUTION, for the Church aforesaid:

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1. All ecclesiastical power herein granted, to make or repeal any rule in Discipline, shall be vested in a General Conference, which shall consist of ministers elected by the members, in every conference district throughout the society. Nevertheless nothing shall be done so as to change the article of faith or in anywise destroy the itinerant plan.

Sec. 2. No minister shall be considered eligible for election until he has stood in the capacity of elder for the term of three years, having maintained a good moral character during that time. Any elder receiving a transfer from one conference to another, shall not be considered eligible for election under a term of two years, and not then without a sufficient recommendation from the conference of which he had been a member.

Sec. 3. The number of delegates from each conference district shall not exceed one for every five hundred members. But should it so happen that a conference would be formed in a territory not having five hundred members within its district, that conference shall nevertheless have one delegate to represent its members in General Conference.

Sec. 4. If any vacancies should occur through sickness or otherwise, after the election of delegates, it shall be the duty of the presiding elder or elders immediately to notify the next highest on the list of votes that he is now a member to represent that district in the ensuing General Conference.

Sec. 5. The bishops shall upon all occasions be considered members of the General Conference, to preside as the organs of that body as in annual conferences. Bishops shall be elected every four years, during the sitting of the General Conference, by the members thereof, from among the elders throughout the Church, who may have stood in that capacity for a term, not less than six years.

Sec. 6. The General Conference shall be held once every four years. At the adjournment of which it shall be the duty of the same to publish or cause to be published (excepting such parts as may not be considered expedient) all their proceedings, for the benefit of society in general.

ARTICLE II.

Sec. 1. The members in each conference district shall solely have the privilege of choosing and electing the delegates to General Conference, which shall invariably be done at least three months [previous] to the sitting of the same.

Sec. 2. In the election of delegates for General Conference, it shall be the duty of each annual conference to appoint a committee of three, in their several conference districts, to receive and count the votes, and immediately apprise those who may have been elected.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the annual conference to furnish the presiding elders with a list of all the elders eligible for election. The presiding elders shall furnish each circuit-preacher in charge, whose duty it shall be to furnish each class-leader or steward throughout the circuit with a copy of the same.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of each class-leader or steward to appoint a meeting of the members of each class, for the purpose of electing, by ballot or otherwise, one or more delegates to represent them in General Conference.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of each class-leader or steward to sign, enclose and seal each bill of election, hand it over to the preacher in charge; he again to the presiding elder, whose duty it shall be to transmit the same to the committee appointed by the annual conference.

Sec. 6. The committee appointed to receive and count the votes shall make a list of all the persons voted for and the number of votes for each. Should any two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, the invividuals thus appointed shall determine by lot who or which of them are elected. They shall also forward the names of those elected to the conference printing establishment for publication.

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. Each annual conference shall come fully under the jurisdiction of the General Conference, except under such regulations as the General Conference may deem expedient in relation to local matters, so as not to prove prejudicial to the interest of the whole society.

Sec. 2. The business of each annual conference shall strictly be done according to Discipline.

Sec. 3. Any annual conference acting in violation of the doings of General Conference, shall, by impeachment, be tried by the same.

Sec. 4. No annual conference shall have the exclusive right to form or admit new conference within the bounds of society, without the consent of the General Conference.

Sec. 5. All officers, whether bishops, presiding elders, etc., shall, on impeachment, be dealt with according to Discipline, as other members, expelled or retained, as the case may require.

ARTICLE IV.

Sec. 1. If at any time after passing of this constitution it should be contemplated either to alter or amend the same, it shall be the privilege of any member in society to publish or cause to be published such contemplation at least three months before the election of delegates to the General Conference.

Sec. 2. No General Conference shall have the power to alter or amend the foregoing constitution, except it be by a vote of two thirds of that body.

RESOLUTIONS.

Inasmuch as it is the indefeasible right of every man to think and act for himself in matters of faith and morality, this right not only being granted by the charter of his creation, but also by the Discipline adopted

for the better government of the church of the United Brethren in Christ; be it resolved, therefore—

1st. That no rule be adopted by General Conference so as to infringe upon the rights of any, as it relates to the mode and manner of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or the washing of feet, etc.

2d. *Resolved*, No rule or ordinance shall be passed in General Conference so as to deprive the local preachers of the eligibility of election as delegates to the same. Nor yet to deprive them of their legal vote in the annual conference to which they severally belong.

3d. *Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions shall neither be altered or repealed without the unanimous consent of the whole conference.

Done in General Conference by the unanimous consent of that body, this 11th day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our names.

H Kumler,	Bishops.	George Hiskey.
Samuel Hiestand,		John Coons.
Jacob Erb.		William Hanby.
Jacob Winter.		Jno. Featherhoff.
Jacob Rhinehart.		William Stubbs.
J J. Glossbrenner.		Francis Whitcom.
Adam Hetzler.		John Lopp.
David Weimer.		Fred. Kenoyer.
John Dorcas.		William Davis.

CIRCULAR.

To the Members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ throughout the United States:

Dear brethren, by whose authority we, as a General Conference, have been authorized to legislate on matters pertaining to the government of our church, and having long since been convinced of the great necessity of a constitution for the better regulation thereof, have, by unanimous consent, framed and established the foregoing. We are well aware that we have transcended the bounds given by our Discipline, which will be found in the constitution, Article IV., Section 2, declaring that this constitution can neither be altered or amended without a majority of two thirds of a General Conference. If there had been a general notice given to the Church previous to the election of delegates that there would be a memorial offered to General Conference, praying them to adopt a constitution, and to ratify it agreeable to Article IV., Section 2, then the General Conference would have had full power to have done so. The object of this circular is (feeling that the government of our church is not as firm as it ought to be) to give notice to our church throughout the Union that we intend to present a memorial to the next General Conference, praying them to ratify the constitution now adopted, according to Article IV., Section 2, in testimony of our ardent desire for the welfare of our church, and the general spread of the gospel.

Written by order of General Conference, Germantown, Ohio, May 12th, 1837.

Signed in behalf of the same, by

William R. Rhinehart, Sec'y.

PAGE 74 OF JOURNAL.

A motion was made by Wm Hanby that a new edition of the discipline be printed forthwith and that conference direct the number, which is as follows.

Pa Con	1000 Eng, and	1000 Ger.	
Va "	500 "	200 "	
Musk	500 "	50 "	Total
Wabash "	180 E	20 Ger	5780 Eng
Scioto	2000 "	300 "	1970 Ger
Sandus	800	200	———
Ind	800	200	7750

PAGE 75 OF JOURNAL.

On motion of J Erb it was ordered that 2000 German disciplines be printed immediately.

The conference next proceeded to examine discipline.

Alterations to Dis } See discipline.

PAGE 76 OF JOURNAL.

The com. on ways and means, presented an article respecting the building of Meeting houses, and the order to be observed, and on motion adopted.

Q To whom are our meeting houses and the premises belong to them, to be deeded?

Ans. To a board of trustees and their successors in office as the property of the Church of the U B, in Christ.

PAGE 77 OF JOURNAL.

Note. The trustees will be careful in all cases to have deeds of conveyance legally executed and recorded in the county records where the property is, that is, to have the deed made to them and their successors in office in trust for the Church of the U. B. in Christ and they will erect and build, or cause to be built a house of worship, for the use of the members of the said church, according to the rules of discipline, which may from time to time be adopted by the church.

PAGE 78 OF JOURNAL.

On motion W R Rhinehart and W Hanby were appointed to prepare the Discipline for print, and J Russel was appointed to translate the discipline into the German Language and S Heistand to examine the translation.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1841.

PAGE 80 OF JOURNAL.

Pursuant to appointment the general conference of the United Brethren in Christ met at Dresbacks M. H. Pickaway Co., O. on the 10 day of May 1841.

There were present from

Pennsylvania Conf
J Russel
J Roop

Va
J J Glossbrenner
W R Coursey

Muskingum Conf
Alexander Biddle
James McGaw

Sandusky Conf
H. G. Spayth
Geo. Hiskey

Scioto Conf
Wm Hastings
Jno Coons
J Montgomery
E Vandemark

Wabash Conf
Josiah Davis
Wm Davis

H Kumler sr } Bish
J Erb. }

Allehgany Conf
Jacob Ritter
Geo. Miller

Miami Conf
H Kumler Jr
Francis Whitcom

Indiana Conf
Henry Bonebrake
J A Ball
J G Eckles

All the members were present except Rev G Bonebrake of Miami Conference, whose ill health prevented his attendance.

The conference was opened, by Bishops Kumler and Erb. The 1st chap of Collossians was read and singing and prayer.

On motion, J Slonacker, was elected the German and J Montgomery the English secretary.

After prayer adjourned till ½ past one o'clock.

PAGE 80¾ OF JOURNAL.

May 11th. Conference met and after devotional exercises proceeded to business.

On motion the secretary proceeded to read discipline. Various remarks of much interest were made by H G Spaythe and (J Baulus a visitor to conference).

On motion the resolution touching the Ed. and trustees of R. T. [*Religious Telescope*] was called up, and laid on the table for a third reading. Conf. adjourned in the usual order.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conf met. Prayer by —— proceeded to business.

The motion—Ed, and trustees read the 3d time and carried—

The motion, on yeas and nays read the 3d time—and was lost.

A motion was offered by E Vandemark that a constitution for the better government of the church be adopted, much discussion ensued.

After prayer conf adjourned.

May 12th—Conf. met and after the usual order proceeded to business.

Petitions called for, and one from C Kneagy was presented praying for some alteration on church trials.

On motion the unfinished business of yesterday was called for.

The motion for a constitution was called up. A spirited discussion ensued—the vote taken—it carried in favor of a constitution Yeas 15, Nays 7.

On motion of J Coons a committee of nine was appointed to draft a constitution, [Page 80 Journal] Whereupon J Russel J J Glossbrenner Geo Miller Alex Biddle H G Spaythe J Montgomery, W Davis H Bonebrake and H Kumler Jr, were appointed, (one from each conf. district)—by ballot.

Conf. adjourned till the committee should be ready to report.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met, 4 o'clock,—prayer by ——— Constitution committe made report, which being distinctly read twice on motion was laid on the table till tomorrow morning.

On motion after prayer adjourned.

MAY 13th.

Conference met, after prayer, the constitution was read the 3d time by sections and adopted—In the words following viz—

CONSTITUTION.

We, the members of the CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST, in the name of God, do for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, as well as to produce and secure a uniform mode of action, in faith and practice, as also to define the powers and the business of quarterly, annual, and general conferences, as recognized by the Church, ordain the following articles of CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1. All ecclesiastical power herein granted, to make or repeal any rule of discipline, is vested in a general conference, which shall consist of elders, elected by the members in every conference district throughout the society; provided, however, such elders shall have stood in that capacity three years, in the conference district to which they belong.

Sec. 2. General Conference is to be held every four years; the bishops to be considered members and presiding officers.

Sec, 3. Each annual conference shall place before the society the names of all the elders eligible to membership in the General Conference.

ARTICLE II.

Sec. 1. The General Conference shall define the boundaries of the annual conferences.

Sec. 2. The General Conference shall, at every session, elect bishops from among the elders throughout the Church, who have stood six years in that capacity.

Sec. 3. The business of each annual conference shall be done strictly according to Discipline; and any annual conference acting contrary thereunto, shall, by impeachment, be tried by the General Conference.

Sec. 4. No rule or ordinance shall at any time be passed, to change or do away the Confession of Faith as it now stands, nor to destroy the itinerant plan.

Sec. 5. There shall no rule be adopted that will infringe upon the rights of any as it relates to the mode of baptism, the Sacrament of the Lord's supper, or the washing of feet.

Sec. 6. There shall no rule be made that will deprive local preachers of their votes in the annual conferences to which they severally belong.

Sec. 7. There shall be no connection with secret combinations, nor shall involuntary servitude be tolerated in any way.

Sec. 8. The right of appeal shall be inviolate.

ARTICLE III.

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, meeting-houses, legacies, bequests or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the

use, benefit, and behoof of the United Brethren in Christ, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the Chuerh aforesaid.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be no alteration of the foregoing constitution, unless by request of two thirds of the whole society.

MAY 19. 1841.

On motion of J Russel—*Resolved* that any one proposing an additional section to the new constitution must present it to the committee who drafted the constitution for them to report to conference, and if favorable on vote of conference, during the present session only, may be added to the constitution.

PAGE 82 OF JOURNAL.

On motion conference adjourned.

Afternoon session—proceeded to the revision of discipline.

On motion of J J Glossbrenner that the phrase in 1 Paragraph in discipline read "in the 18th century" instead of "century last past" and instead of saying "at this time" read "about the middle of said century." Carried.

On motion H. G. Spaythe, *Resolved* that 3d paragraph read "amongst others he raised up Wm. Otterbein and Martin Boehm in the state of Pennsylvania, and G. A. Gheeting of Md, armed them," etc. (Carried.)

On motion of E Vandemark, *Resolved* that the word "itself" in 2 line 4 page be struck out.

On motion there shall be a transposition on the 1st break line, 5 page so as to read, "Paradise Township, York Co," and that "Jno Pfrimmer" read J G Prefmer and "Benedict Sauder" read Sander.

On motion the word on 6th page 14th line be struck out, also on 7th page 1 P the words between "elected" and "who" be placed in a parenthesis.

Conference adjourned.

MAY 14TH.

On motion of J Russel, that the circular on page 16 and 17 be expunged—also the circular on page 53. 10 o'clock according to a previous resolution (being fast day) Preaching commenced by the Rev A Biddle.

Afternoon—on motion of E Vandemark a committee was appointed to adopt measures better to sustain the Itinerant plan. Whereupon, J. Russel, A Biddle, H Kumler, H G Spayth, and H Bonebrake was appointed said committee.

On motion. E Vandemark, G Hiskey, W Davis, W. R. Coursey and J Montgomery were constituted a committee to draft rules regulating Quarterly Conferences, and

Conference adjourned.

PAGE 83 OF JOURNAL.

Monday May 17th conference met—after prayer proceeded to business.

On motion J Slonecker and J Montgomery were appointed to prepare the Discipline for the press.

On motion *Resolved* that the discipline shall be printed in the following order.

1st The Origin 2d Confession of Faith 3 Constitution 4th Gen Conference 5 Annual Conference 6 Q Conference 7th Members.

J J Glossbrenner moved the article on making and vending ardent spirits be so altered and amended as to embrace lay members.

On motion of H Kumler it was laid on the table. And Conference adjourned.

PAGE 86 OF JOURNAL.

On motion *Resolved* that this Conference make a selection of Theological Works with other instructial Books to be read. Whereupon J Russel, J Coons. W R Coursey. A Biddle & J Roop were appointed.

Afternoon—The report of the committee on the Course of Reading was presented and the following Works were recommended, viz.

PAGE 87 OF JOURNAL.

The delegates asked the number of Disciplines for their respective conferences as follows

Va	Conference	300	English	25	Ger
Pa	"	300	"	300	"
Allegheny	"	300	"	25	"

Muskingum	Conference	400	English	25 Ger
Sandusky	"	300	"	50 "
Scioto	"	400	"	50 "
Miami	"	300	"	50 "
Ind	"	300	"	50 "
Wabash	"	200		25 "

Conference adjourned.

J MONTGOMERY } *Secretaries.*
J SLONECKER }

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1845.

PAGE 88 OF JOURNAL.

CIRCLEVILLE May 12, 1845.

Pursuant to appointment the delegates elected to the General Conference of the U. B. I. C. met.

These were present

Rev H Kumler Sr
" H Kumler Jr } Bishops.
and " Jno Coons

Va Conference
Rev J J Glossbrenner
" J Markwood
" J Bachtel

Pa, Con.
" J Russel
" J S Kesler and
" S Dresback were absent

Alleghany Con
" J R Sitman
" J Ritter
" Jno Rider

Muskingum Con.
" A Biddle
" J McGaw
" W W Simpkins.

Wabash Con
" Jno Hoobler
" Josiah Davis
" Jno Denham

Scioto Conference
Rev E Vandemark
" J Montgomery
" M Ambrose

Sandusky Con
" H G. Spaythe
" Geo. Hiskey
" J. Brown

Miami Conference
" Geo Bonebrake
" Jno Crider
" Francis Whitcom

Ind Con.
" D Bonebrake
" Jas A Ball
one absent.

Conference was called to order, and opened by Bro H Kumler Jr by reading the 12 chap of Rom. Singing and prayer, after which an address was delivered by Bro J Coons.

H G Spayth and J Montgomery were elected secretaries. Conference adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Con met—prayer, after which the following rules of order were adopted.

Rule 1st. The conference shall meet at 8 o'clock A M, and 1 o'clock P M, and continue 7 hours each day—three and a half A M, three and a half P M. The eldest Bishop shall take the chair the 1st day, the second eldest the next day, and so on; each Bp to sit one day at a time until the final adjournment of said conference. On the appearance of a quorum, consisting of two thirds of the members the Bp shall call the conference to order, and after prayer proceed to business.

PAGE 90 OF JOURNAL.

Indiana Conference district. W J Steward appeared claiming a seat as a delegate from said district, and it appearing upon examination of the validity of the claim of said W J Steward, conference *Resolved*, that whereas by the statement made by said Steward to this conference, that he did not consider himself a member of said conference district at this time, and whereas, according to our church constitution none but actual members of an annual conference for the time being, can properly be delegates to General Conference

Resolved therefore, for the reason above stated, said Steward is not entitled to a seat in this Conference.

Likewise, in the case of Aaron Davis, from the same district, it appearing to the satisfaction of this Conference that he had not stood as an elder for three successive years previous to the election of Delegates to this Gen. Con. hence according to the constitution above referred to, his election having not been according to discipline, he cannot act as a delegate in this Conference.

Conference after prayer adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY MAY 13th.

Conference met and opened by prayer.

Order of the day;—A petition from Indiana conference from Fall Creek circuit, asking conference not to alter our Confession of faith on the doctrine of "depravity"; Nor the constitution as it now stands in our book of discipline.

PAGE 91 OF JOURNAL.

On motion of J Ritter. *Resolved* that the conference revise the discipline as it passes in the reading thereof.

On motion of J J Glossbrenner. *Resolved* that in view of the constitution this General Conference has no right to revise, alter or amend the confession of faith as it now stands.

The yeas & nays on the question

Yeas Glossbrenner, Markwood, Bechtel, Reider, Vandemark, Spayth Hiskey, G Bonebrake, H Bonebrake, J Davis, Kumler Jr, Crider, Brown, Simpkins and Whitcom—15.

Nays Russel, Ritter, Biddle, Montgomery, Ambrose, Ball, McGaw and Sitman. 8

The reason assigned for the vote in the negative but a change of certain expressions not fully explanatory.

Adjourned.

PAGE 92 OF JOURNAL.

AFTERNOON SESSION—Prayer by H Bonebrake. Revision of Discipline continued.

Revision. Page 19. 13th line. Moved by J A Ball, seconded by W W Simpkins that the word "depravity" be struck out. After some discussion the yeas and nays being called—

Yeas W W Simpkins. H G Spayth, J Brown, Bonebrake J Hubler, and J Denham, 6.

Nays. J J Glossbrenner, J Markwood, J Bechtel J Russel, J R Sitman, J Ritter, J Reider, A Biddle J McGaw, E Vandemark, J Montgomery, M Ambrose, G Hiskey, G Bonebrake, J Crider, F Whitcom, J A Ball, Jos. Davis, H Kumler Jr and J Coons 20.

Page 19 last p. on motion of E Vandemark referred to a standing committe

Prayer by G Hiskey.

Adjourned.

PAGE 102 OF JOURNAL.

On motion that H G Spayth be employed as an agent to collect, and write out a concise History of the rise and advance of the Church of the U. B. in C, the present year, and report to the Sandusky and Scioto Annual Conferences—to be paid for time and expenses merely, yet if it be approved, shall be allowed a reasonable compensation. *Resolved*, that 1000 German disciplines be printed for the use of our German members. Whereupon Conference directed that H G Spayth be employed to translate the discipline into the German, and W Hanby direct the printing and binding.

H G Spayth
J Montgomery } *Secretaries.*

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1849.

PAGE 105 OF JOURNAL.

1849. The General Conference of the U B In C met at Germontown, Montgomery Co, Ohio, on Monday the 14th day of May

And there were present,

Revd Jno Russel
" J J Glossbrenner and } Bishops
William Hanby

DELEGATES.

Va Conference		J J Markwood	*Muskingum*	"	S. C. Steward
		J Bachtel			A S Wade
		H Burtner			J Todd
E Pa	"	C Pefly	*Sandusky*	"	A Spracklin
		J Roop			J C Bright
		D Gingerich			H G Spaythe
West Pa	"	J Erb	*Scioto*	"	J Montgomery
		G Miller			D Edwards
		J Fohl			M Ambrose
Alleghany	"	J B Resler.	*Miami*	"	W R Rhinehart
		W Beighel			W Davis
					H Kumler Jr
Indiana Conf		H Bonebrake			
		L S Chittenden			
		J Lopp			

White River	"	D Stover
		W W Richardson
		C W Witt
		J Thomas
St Joseph	"	J M Hershey
		E H Lamb
		Jas Griffith
Wabash	"	J P Shuey
		J Hoobler
Illinois	"	J Terrel

PAGE 107 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved that the discipline be read and revised and W Davis read it.

Resolved that in future No. of Edition be omitted.

Resolved that epithet "Menonist" be written as the best modern historians write it.

On motion in the name of Dracksel D was changed to T and Daniel Treyer be written D Treyer.

On motion of Bright and Markwood, *Resolved* that a clause be inserted in discipline (confession of faith) expressing our view of future endless punishment, and on motion J J Glossbrenner it was indefinitely laid on the table.

PAGE 108 OF JOURNAL.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by ———

Resolved That a committee of two be appointed to draft a circular asking the members of our church to authorize the next Gen Con, so to amend the second item on page 13 as to read, "We believe in a holy Christian church, the communion of saints the resurrection of the body, life everlasting, and eternal death. Laid on the table.

In view of the fact that the constitution of our church is illegal Therefore, *Resolved*, that it be expunged. Markwood and Bachtel.

Motion was lost yeas and nays called—all the members voted in the negative but the mover and second, and Burtner.

4 o'clock prayer—adjourned.

S. C. Steward presented a petition praying for a lay delegation which was referred to the proper Com.

PAGE 112 OF JOURNAL.

Committee on Petitions reported that with due regard to the wishes of those of our Brethren who may desire a lay delegation after duly considering their request, we believe such a measure would be altogether inexpedient.

A S WADE } *Com*
J MARKWOOD }

PAGE 114 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved, that J. Montgomery be and is hereby authorized to purchase a well bound blank book containing some ten or twelve quires of paper and make a regular record of all the proceedings of past General Conferences as far as possible, together with the proceedings of this Gen. Conference, and that he be paid a reasonable compensation for his services out of the funds of the *Telescope* office, and the book to be paid for out of the funds of this conference.

(Carried) Hanby—Hershey.

PAGE 117 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be administered during our stay in this place at such time as is considered most practicable by the Bishops. (Laid on table.) Fohl & Griffith.

PAGE 118 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved that a committe of 7 be appointed to revise the 27 sec on Free Masonry.

On motion resolved that the minutes of Gen Conference be not published in the *R Telescope* as a sufficient from the daily reports will be published for the satisfaction of the general readers. (carried)

PAGE 119 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved that the Book committe shall examine H G Spayth's manuscript of C History and, that said committe shall have discretionary power to receive said History and negotiate with said Spayth for the Copy right.

PAGE 121. OF RECORD.

J Markwood presented to Conference his minority report on secret combinations, in words as follows

DEAR BRETHREN

Whereas I do not believe it to be any part of the prerogative of an ecclesiastical body to legislate in regard to what may be called secret combination or secret societies Etc, and from the fact furthermore that I con-

ceive, that if this General Conference is determined to and will have something in the way of law, in regard to secret combinations, secret Societies Etc, That we already have all that I believe necessary. Reference to Discipline 7 Edition page 66. sec 27. Caption Free Masonry.

On motion Resolved—It shall be the duty of each General Conference to examine the administration of each annual conference, whether they have strictly observed the rules and preserved the moral principles of the discipline in all their transactions. (carried)

On motion a Resolution touching the Va Annual Conference as connected with slavery proposing the ridding of themselves of this sin in two years, was presented and laid on the table.

PAGE 122 OF JOURNAL.

Resolution relative to the Va Conf, was called up and refered to a committee.

PAGE 124 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved that the following be inserted as law appended to Section 28, viz.

And when it is known to any of our ministers in charge of a Circuit Station, or Mission, that any of its members hold slave or slaves they shall admonish such members to manumit such slave or slaves, and if such persons do not take measures to carry out the discipline they shall be expelled by the proper authorities of the Church, as the case may be, and any minister refusing to attend to the duties above described shall be dealt with by the authorities to which he is amenable.

Provided, however, that this clause of discipline is not so construed as to favor merciless acts, towards such as helpless children, cripples, and persons of age.

On motion Proviso struck off.

PAGE 125 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved that the Congregation in Baltimore be recognized as members under their name and Charter.

Yeas. Russel, Hanby, Pefley, Roop, Gingerich, Erb, Miller, Fohl, Resler, Spracklin, Spayth, Bright, Ambrose, Lopp, Stover, Witt, Thomas, Hoobler. 19.

Nays. Markwood, Bachtel, Burtner, Steward, Todd, Montgomery, Rhinehart, Davis, Kumler, Bonebrake, Richardson, Hershey, Griffith. 13.

On motion Va.Conference considered as passed on its examination.

On motion *Resolved* that there be an examination of all the

Conferences—Pa Conf. charged for having Distilleries, and in view of explanation & promise to carry out the principles of the church passed.

H Burtner charge, accused the Miami Conf for indulging secret combinations—or associations.

Resolved, that in the estimation of this G. Conf the members of the Miami Conference in general did not use their influence against secret combinations as required by discipline.

PAGE 130 OF JOURNAL.

ARDENT SPIRITS.

Distilling, vending, and use of ardent spirits as a beverage shall hereafter be forbidden throughout our Society. Should any Preacher, Exhorter, Leader or Layman be engaged in distilling vending or using ardent spirits as a beverage, He shall be accountable to the class, the Quarterly, or annual conference to which he belongs.

PAGE 133 OF JOURNAL.

Constitution of the Society, called the Benevolent Society of the United Brethren in Christ as altered and amended by General Conference May 25. 1849.

ART. I. This society is to be known, etc.

PAGE 136 OF JOURNAL.

Sec 27 pp 66. Free Masonry, Report adopted as follows.

Free Masonry in every sense of the word shall be totally prohibited and there shall be no connection with secret combinations. *A secret combination is one whose initiatory ceremony or bond of union is a secret.* And any member found connected with such society shall be affectionately admonished twice or thrice, by the preacher in charge, and if such member does not desist in a reasonable time he shall be notified to appear before the tribunal to which he is amenable, and if he still refuses to desist shall be expelled from the church.

PAGE 137 OF JOURNAL.

ADMONITION.

Dress. Inasmuch as the Lord by the apostle has commanded us not to be conformed to this world Rom 12. 2 and by the Apostle James commands us to "lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness" Jas 1 C 21 V. And the principles of the Christian religion as taught both by the precept and

example of the meek and adorable Savior are in strict and perfect accordance with these commandments.

We therefore humbly beseech and admonish the members of our church, both male and female, to observe these divine precepts, in buying and making and wearing of apparel, also the cutting and wearing of the hair, especially our ministers and their families, they being ensamples to the flock.

No further business Conference adjourned.

J Montgomery } *Secretaries.*
A Coho }

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1853.

PAGE 143 OF JOURNAL.

On motion it was resolved that the discipline be read, and D Shuck was appointed reader.

On motion the name Pfremer was changed to Pfrimer, page 7.

Resolved that in the opinion of this conference any brother who may publicly or privately contend for any *one* mode of baptism as being essential to the ordinance to the exclusion of other modes now in use in the church, violates the principles of compromise agreed upon by the Fathers of the Church, and makes himself guilty of traducing his brethren and furthermore where baptism is known to have been lawfully administered to one who may apply for baptism in adult age he of our ministers who administers baptism in such a case shall be regarded as departing from a proper respect for God's ordinances and shall be tried accordingly.

H Kumler
J C Bright
J Markwood

A motion was made for indefinite postponement by A Owen, which carried.

On motion of H Kumler, *Resolved*, that in the opinion of this Conference Boehm never was found to intimate that those baptized by Otterbein should be baptized over again.

On motion of J J Glossbrenner, this motion was amended by striking all out after resolved and substituting the following.

That in the opinion of this conference that it is contrary to the spirit of the United Brethren in Christ for a minister of our church to speak lightly, either publicly or privately, of any form of Baptism practiced by his brethren.

The motion in its amended form was adopted.

PAGE 147 OF JOURNAL.

J Lopp presented a petition praying that provision be made for a lay delegation in our church, read and refered to the Committe on Petitions and Memorials.

PAGE 148 OF JOURNAL.

The reading of the discipline was continued, and on motion of I Potter the following Resolution—That the word *depravity* on page 25 Question 7th be erased; and that the following question be inserted immediately before it, viz

Do you believe in the doctrine of Natural, hereditary, total depravity as held by the Church?

J C Bright moved to amend by striking out the clause, "*as held by the church.*" Lost.

Bro Terrel moved that the resolution be laid on the table—lost.

Bro Slight proposed to amend by striking out the word "*total*". Lost.

Bro Vardaman moved to postpone the consideration of the resolution on depravity until next Friday morning. Carried.

PAGE 149 OF JOURNAL.

The committe on Petitions and Memorials reported as follows,—We your committe on memorials and petitions beg leave to report on Petition 2d touching lay delegation, that (for us) obvious and sufficient reasons, we cannot grant the petitioners their request. On motion the report was received.

On motion for adoption it was moved by J Lawrence to amend as follows, "*are not prepared at present to.*" The amendment carried, and the report on the adoption in its amended form carried.

PAGE 154 OF JOURNAL.

The question on natural, inherent and total depravity as set for this morning was called for, and on motion for adoption discussion was elicted from I Potter, H Kumler, J Markwood, A Owen, L S Chittenden, J Fetterhoff, D Edwards. Those opposed to the adoption, Griffith, Vardaman, Sellers, Terrell, Hill, Byrd, Russell and others.

11½ o'clock. Prayer by S. Dresback.

1 o'clock conference met. Prayer by GB Reimel.

The discussion on the Resolution which occupied the attention of the Conference in the forenoon continued, in which a number partook, pro & con.

PAGE 157 OF JOURNAL.

J J Glossbrenner moved to amend the Resolution on depravity by adding the following amendment—1 By depravity is meant, not guilt, nor liability to punishment; but the absence of holiness; which therefore unfits a man for heaven.

2d By *natural* is meant that man is born with this absence of holiness.

3d By *hereditary* is meant that this unholy state is inherited from Adam.

4 By *total* is not meant that a man or child cannot become more unholy, or that he is irrecoverably unholy, nor that he is a mass of corruption; but that this absence of holiness must be predicated of all the faculties and powers of the soul.

Russel proposed to amend the amendment as follows—"And none of our preachers shall extend the meaning further than is warranted by this definition. Lost.

The original amendment was then carried.

PAGE 158 OF JOURNAL.

On motion of J Lawrence the word "*total*" was stricken out of the resolution on depravity, and the explanation, and substituted the word "*complete*."

On motion the yeas and nays were called on the resolution on depravity and resulted as follows—Yeas 23 Nays 19.

Resolved That Bros H G Spayth, H Kumler Sen and Joseph Huffman be requested to say whether the doctrine of the Resolution on natural, inherent, total depravity was recognized and preached by the church in the days of Otterbein and others in the sense and meaning as presented by the friends of said resolution.

2d Resolved that the statement of these brethren be entered upon the Conference Journal and also be published in the *Telescope* in connection with the discussion of Conference, upon said resolution.

Lost.

A Sellers
F R S Byrd

PAGE 180 OF JOURNAL.

Course of Reading and Study, For Licentiate Preachers upon which they shall be examined by the several Annual Conferences to which they belong,

FIRST YEAR

Bible Doctrine

Human Depravity, the atonement, Redemption, Repentance; Justification by Faith, Regeneration; Adoption, The Witness of the Spirit; Christian Perfection. Possibility of Final Apostasy.

PAGE 181 OF JOURNAL.

SECOND YEAR.

Bible Doctrines.

Existence and attributes of God; Divinity and Humanity of Christ. . . . Resurrection of the Body, Future General Judgment, Eternal Rewards and Punishments.

THIRD YEAR.

Bible Institutions.

The Christian Sabbath, the Lords Supper; Christian Baptism.

PAGE 187 OF JOURNAL.

JOHN LAWRENCE } *Secretaries.*
J MtGOMERY }

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1857.

PAGE 189 OF JOURNAL.

Pursuant to previous appointment the General [Conference] of the U Brethren in Christ, assembled at First church of the U B C, Cincinnati Ohio. May 12th 1857.

On motion it was resolved that there be chosen two English secretaries and one German. and upon balloting, J Montgomery and J. Markwood were chosen English secretaries and [Julius] Degmire, German.

On motion *Resolved* that there be procured two reporters, with the understanding that the minutes be published in pamphlet form, and that the reports be published in the columns of the *Religious Telescope* ond *Bolschafler*.

On motion it was resolved that the discipline be read, and, on motion W Davis was chosen to read.

PAGE 190-91 OF JOURNAL.

Reading resumed.

D Shrader moved that an explanation be made of the Confession of faith, in regard to the Ordinance of Baptism, as to whom it shall be administered to, or upon whom it is incumbent etc to practice.

PAGE 192 OF JOURNAL.

(FROM BISHOPS' ADDRESS.)

We would earnestly recommend that there be no change in the discipline touching secret societies, and slavery. And we see no good reason why these subjects should be agitated at this session. It is fondly hoped that the time is not far distant when we will not only be practically free from these evils; but that there will be none found to advocate them in our connection. We do not think that many changes in our discipline as it now stands is required. A few items may be rendered more clear in order to secure as far as possible a uniformity of action.

PAGE 193 OF JOURNAL.

On motion *Resolved*, that the report of the reporters be referred to the Editors of the *Religious Telescope* and *Bolschafler* for their approval and correction.

The chair announced the unfinished business of the first day to be the motion of D Shrader asking an explanation of the Confession of Faith in its clause relating to baptism, and as to whether or not, infant children are proper subjects for this ordinance. Moved to be referred to committee on revision. Lawrence moved that the motion to refer to committee be indefinitely postponed—Carried.

Vardaman moved to postpone indefinitely the original motion. After some discussion the motion to postpone was withdrawn and the original left in the possession of the Conference.

PAGE 194 OF JOURNAL.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Bishop Edwards in the chair.

The chair reminded the delegates that they should be guarded against personal reflections in debate of questions in controversy, and also that Rules of order should be particularly respected and observed.

J J Glossbrenner moved to amend D Shrader's motion (in possession of the Conference) relative to infant Baptism by saying that in the judgment of this General Conference the spirit of the Confession of Faith and the uniform course of the U Brethren Church in the past recognize *infant* as well as adult Baptism though administered in different forms as being valid.

C W Witt moved a second amendment to the original motion saying, "That in the judgment of this Conference, infant baptism is understood to be left to the discretion of the ministers and parents in the church to practice or not, as they may [or] can conscientiously choose, in the same liberal way as the adult believer is allowed to choose the mode of baptism."

After lengthy discussion on motion of J Lawrence the original motion, with the amendments, was voted to postponement indefinitely.

The yeas and nays being called, on motion to postponement stood as follows—

Yeas. Babcoke, Biddle, Bowser, Brazee, Brewer, Bowman, Corbon, Crider, W Davis, Dick, Erb, Flinchbaugh, Gillispie, Griffith, Hanway, Kenoyer, Kern, Lawrence, W Miller, Raber, Resler, Russel, Scholler, Zeller, Stamm, Steigerwalt, Shuck, Sitman, Slight, Vardaman, Wilkinson, Perine. 33.

Nays. Glossbrenner, L Davis, Bachtel, Bright, J Carter, C Carter, Chittanden, Coursey, Hoobler, Hopkins, Kumler, Lindsay, Markwood, Montgomery, Rathbun, Shepler, Shrader, W C Smith, Thomas, J P Shuey, W J Shuey, W J Stearns, Weaver, Witt. 24.

On motion of J. Lawrence the last paragraph in the confession of Faith was referred to the committe on revision.

PAGE 195 OF JOURNAL.

The chair announced the business of the conference to be the reading of discipline—Reading resumed.

H Kumler moved that the first article in the *constitution*, be referred to the committe on revision for the purpose of being considered as to the propriety of submitting it to the church for the asking of its continuance, or its *change* as the case may be. Lay delegation being particularly the thing of reference.

PAGE 198 OF JOURNAL.

On second calling by the chair the committe on revision of the discipline reported to the following effect,—

1st. That Frederick in connection with Kemp and in mention with the appointment of a conference held in Sept 1800—see page 6—continue in the book of Discipline as it is, viz *Frederick Kemp*.

On motion adopted.

2d. That the term "*this* respect" in the last period of the "Confession of Faith" be struck out of that connection and this term "*these respects*" be inserted in its stead.

On motion adopted.

3d That at the present it would [not] be advisable to submit the "constitution" to the laity for the vote relative thereto with a view to the modification of it, or of any part of it.

On motion recommitted to the committee with advice to a favorable report, or else a reason for the reverse.

Moved by Vardaman that motions to recommit be taken without discipline—lost.

Moved by A A Sellers that should any of our preachers, or members, speak disrespectfully of infant baptism they shall be considered guilty of traducing their brethren and shall be held accountable for the same—lost.

On motion of J Bachtel, *Resolved* that whereas a difference opinion has existed in the past, and continues to exist among us as a church upon the subject of baptism both as respects the mode and the [manner] and that both ministers and members, be and [are] hereby prohibited from speaking disrespectfully

of each others opinions and practice of this ordinance and its modes, and should any minister or member violate this prohibition he shall be accountable to the respective official body to which he is amenable as a minister or member of the church and shall be considered censurable. Which carried.

PAGE 201 OF JOURNAL.

The committee on revision beg leave to report on Article 1st Sec 1st of the Constitution, The following paper for adoption.

This Conference recognizes the Church as the source of all ecclesiastical authority. The ministers are but the servants of the Church. Thus far it has pleased the Church to elect its delegates to General Conference from among the elders, local or traveling.

The election of these delegates is effected directly by the votes of the whole church, and as a matter of course the ministers have scarcely any voice at all in the choice made. This arrangement it has been generally believed thus far fairly disposes of the ecclesiastical power of our society. It is an arrangement peculiar to the United Brethren economy; and although it does not secure lay delegation it does secure, in our opinion, a degree of lay influence and lay control which is not possessed by those Churches which [have] a lay delegation. No other church having an Itinerant ministry elects its delegates by a popular vote of the whole church. Some churches have provided that their General Conferences shall be composed of clerical and lay delegates. The former to be chosen by the preachers themselves, and the latter by the members themselves; but none are chosen by a direct popular vote.

The Quarterly Conferences in some Churches elect lay delegates to the annual Conferences, [and these] elect lay delegates to the General Conferences. Now should our church prefer to elect a lay delegation, and authorize the Annual Conferences to elect a ministerial delegation, we should most cheerfully acquiesce in the arrangement although

PAGE 202 OF JOURNAL.

it is our opinion that the present plan secures to the members of the church a more direct, and consequently, a more salutary control of the General Conferences.

Up to this time, however, nothing like a general wish has been expressed by the church for any change in its polity on this point. There is before us no petition, memorial, resolution of quarterly conference, or other paper expressive of desire for such change. No delegate has come here under written instructions to propose such a change. Now, although we do not decide whether such a change is advisable we have too much respect for the members of the Church to take the initiatory step in a movement which so directly affects their rights.

Chittenden moved to amend the first item by saying no delegate had come to this Conference under official instructions, etc.

Lindsey moved to say that no delegate had come to this conference with written instructions, which carried, and on motion, the item specified, with the amendment of Lindsay was adopted.

Bishop Edwards moved to amend the report by striking out the last paragraph therein. Carried.

PAGE 206 OF JOURNAL.

We Your committe on revision beg leave to submit the following report on section 5 of discipline—Question 1 answer 7.

Resolved that this question with its note be expunged from discipline and that the following be inserted in this place.

Do you believe that man, abstract of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is fallen from original righteousness and is not only entirely destitute of holiness; but is inclined to evil and only evil and that continually?

PAGE 207 OF JOURNAL.

Moved to adopt item first,—Moved to amend by subjoining the words "and that except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

On motion the item moved to be *thus amended* was *adopted.*

PAGE 217 OF JOURNAL.

Committee on General superintendency Reported. 1. We recommend that wherever the terms Bishop or Bishops occur in the discipline they be stricken out and the terms superintendent and superintendents be inserted.

PAGE 218 OF JOURNAL.

On motion first item ruled out.

PAGE 242 OF JOURNAL.

J. B. Resler presented to the conference for consideration the following as a substitute for the present clause in discipline on *secret societies;* viz

There shall be no connection with secret combinations and any member found connected with such combination shall be affectionately admonished twice or three times by the preacher in charge and if such member do not desist he shall [be cited] before the tribunal to which he is amenable and if he still refuse to desist he shall be expelled from the church.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1861.

PAGE 255 OF JOURNAL.

Committes on Revision of Discipline 1st Division, ending with section 9. Kumler Resler, Warner, Titus and Todd.

PAGE 260 OF JOURNAL.

Resolved. "That it is the sense of this General Conference that Article I Section 1 of the Constitution commencing at the word "Provided," is to be understood that an elder must be a member of the Annual Conference three years before the sitting of the General Conference in order to elligibility to an election as delegate to that body."

PAGE 261 OF JOURNAL.

The "order of the day" which was the Resolution expressive of the sense of the Conference on Art I. Sec 1 of the constitution was taken up, discussed, and the Resolution was adopted.

PAGE 262 OF JOURNAL.

The Committee on Memorials reported as follows:—

1 There was placed in our hands a petition asking for lay delegation in all legislative and deliberative bodies, signed by Elah Shauck and George Hiskey of Sandusky. Upon which we remark that said petition cannot be granted constitutionally, so far as legislative bodies are concerned. See Constitution Art I Sec 1. If however the General Conference sees proper to grant a lay delegation in Annual Conferences we know nothing in our law which forbids it; but suggest that such an arrangement would increase a burden without any result of good.

Referred to a special Committee of Five on Lay-delegation with instruction to consider the propriety of amendments to the Constitution to be submitted to a vote of the people.

PAGE 287 OF JOURNAL.

The Committe on Lay Delegation made report which was taken up and adopted as follows

WHEREAS no considerable portion of the laity of our Church have signified any desire for a change delegation and

WHEREAS We are not satisfied that such a change would conduce to the peace and welfare of our branch of the Zion of God, therefore

Resolved. That we take no further action in this matter, further than to say we are willing to receive and duly consider memorials when they are presented.

PAGE 290 OF JOURNAL.

(IMPEACHMENT.)

An appeal from the action of the Sandusky Conference of 1858 in relation to certain persons charged with belonging to the Free Masons was read and laid upon the table until the "order of the day" is disposed of.

PAGE 294 OF JOURNAL.

The following resolution was introduced and laid on the table indefinitely:—

Resolved. That the resolution which passed at Cincinnati O four years ago, on *Baptism*, be now reaffirmed and placed in discipline between the confession of Faith and the constitution.

Yeas 35. Nays 31.

PAGE 298 OF JOURNAL.

On motion a petition for Lay delegation from certain persons on Pleasant Hill circuit, Miami Conference was read.

On motion the petition was laid on the table indefinitely in view of the fact that it came too late, the conference having already taken action on the subject of lay delegation. The Yeas and Nays were demanded, and taken as follows—Yeas 26. Nays 25.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1865.

PAGE 307 OF JOURNAL.

Revision No 1. (Embracing Sec. 1 to 7 of Discipline, inclusive.) Warner, Nickey, Hill, S. Kretsinger, Vonneida.

PAGE 317 OF JOURNAL.

COURSE OF READING AND STUDY.

First Year. Bible Doctrine.

Human Depravity, the Atonement, Redemption, Repentance, Justification by Faith, Regeneration, Adoption, Witness of the Spirit, Christian Perfection, Possibility of Final Apostasy.

Second Year. Bible Doctrine.

Resurrection of the Body; Future General Judgment; Eternal Rewards and Punishment.

Third Year. Bible Institutions.

The Christian Sabbath; The Lord's Supper; Christian Baptism.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1869.

PAGE 354 OF JOURNAL.

The chair announced the following committees:

Revision No 1 from Sec III to VII Inclusive.
W. B. Dick, J. Montgomery, J. Scammahorn, W. Jacobs, W. Miller.

PAGE 410 OF JOURNAL.

WHEREAS, Much agitation and difference of opinion prevail in this body and throughout the church in regard to our prohibitory law on secret societies, whereby the quiet and peace of the church are disturbed; and

WHEREAS, The General Conference has no constitutional power to change or modify said law so as to make it less than *prohibitory*; therefore,

Resolved, 1 By the General Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, assembled at Lebanon Pennsylvania May 20. 1869, That in view of the Republican form of our church government in which the power to settle all constitutional questions is vested in the popular will of the membership; and in view of the general interest and diversity of sentiment among our people, we deem it expedient and wise that this question be referred directly to our people for decision,

Resolved, further, That the vote of the Church on the question as hereinafter provided shall he taken throughout the denomination during the month of June, 1872, under such forms and regulations, as the Board of Bishops shall prescribe, as shall secure a full vote and an affirmative or negative answer from each member voting, to the question — "Shall the words, '*There shall be no connection with secret combinations*,' be stricken out of the Constitution of the Church," so as to make it advisory?

Resolved, further: That for the purpose of avoiding untimely further agitation on this subject, we order that the Columns of the *Religious Telescope* and *Froehliche Botschafter* shall not be open for its discussion before the 1st of January 1872.

Z. WARNER,
S. J. GRAHAM.

A motion was made to lay the foregoing on the table.

Yeas and nays called for.

Yeas 43. Nays 42. This vote laid the paper on the Table.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1873.

PAGE 456 OF JOURNAL.

[COMMITTEE] LAY REPRESENTATION.

I K Statton, Wm Jacobs, J Scammahorn, J Carter, J N Martin, G Plowman, M P Doyle, J W Howe, M S Schwimley.

ON REVISION.

COMMITTEE NO. I.

On Revision from Section 3 to Section 8 inclusive.

A. L. Best, E. Fothergill, J. M. Poulton, W. E. Bay, R. Thrasher, G. W. Statton, Wm. Bacon.

PAGE 519 OF JOURNAL.

Committee on Revision No 4 further reported.

Z. A. Colestock moved to amend section 22 as follows, Provided further, That this rule shall not be so construed as to apply to any other than Masonic Societies.

W. Dillon inquired whether the amendment is not in conflict with the constitution of the church.

D. Shuck moved that the point of order was well taken. The yeas and Nays were called for with the following result.

Yeas and Nays on Dillon's well-taken position on the amendment of Colestock conflicting with the Constitution.

Yeas—Glossbrenner, Edwards, Weaver, Dickson, Ambrose, Alwood, Allaman, Alderman, Bay, Best, Bacon, Breeden, Bowman, Barnaby, Beauchamp, Bishop, Brazee, Baldwin, Carter, Connor, Castle, Drury, Davis, Dillon, Evans J. R., Evans Thos., Fisher, Fritz, Greene, Gardner, Gillespie, Griffith, Hoy, Hager, Healey, Hurless, Hallowell, Hershey, Holt, Howe, Ham, Bunce, Jacobs, Kretzinger, Luce, Lehmasters, Miller W., Millar Wm., McGrew, Mills, Martin, Mittendorf, Nye, Nickey, Osman, Plowman, Ross, Sherk D. B., Sherk A. B., Shuck, Scholler, Smith O. F., Smith W. C., Smith J. C., Scammahorn, Statton I. K., Statton G. W., Simpson, Thrasher, Tritch, Vandever, Whitney, Vardaman, Walker, Williams, Wilkinson, Wright, Watrous 78.

Nays—Bulger, Cowgill, Doyle, Favour, Booth, Gelbach, Hoffman, Garst, Harper, Hamilton, Light, Miller D. R., McKee, Poulton, Peters, Rose, Runk, Rigor, Sickafoose, Slaughter, Wagoner, Warner 20.

Neutral—Speck, Schwimley 2.

PAGE 539 OF JOURNAL.

LAY REPRESENTATION—PETITIONERS' NAMES.

The petitioners names herein recorded were given to forms so nearly one or identical, in form, as to make it unnessary

to give but the one *printed* or *copied* form and not oblige so many repetitions on the journal, of the same sense, while the *wording* alone is different only. N. R. LUCE *Rec. Sec.*

A Petition.

To the Honorable General Conference of the United Brethren in Christ; We your petitioners would respectfully pray your Honorable body, to take into consideration the propriety of Lay Delegation into your Annual and General Conferences, believing it would be the most effectual way to advance all the financial interests of the church, as well as the spiritual work, thereby uniting the ministry and members together in the great work of saving the world and bringing it to Christ.

ERIE CONFERENCE.

	No.
French Creek Circuit. [Names all given in Journal.]	16
Port Alleghany Mission. " " " " "	29
Williston Mission. " " " " "	29

PAGE 540 OF JOURNAL.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.

White River Chapel. [Names all given in Journal.]	18

KANSAS CONFERENCE.

New Lawrence Circuit. [Names all given in Journal.]	26

MIAMI CONFERENCE.

Millville Station. [Names all given in Journal.]	39
Pleasant Hill Circuit. " " " " "	60
New Haven Circuit. " " " " "	28
Morris Chapel. " " " " "	23
Georgetown Circuit. " " " " "	27
First U B Church Dayton. [Names all given in Journal.]	24
Germantown Station. " " " " "	118
Miltonville Circuit. " " " " "	21

SCIOTO CONFERENCE.

Westerville Ct. (Miami Conference). [Names all given in Journal.]	76
Beavertown. [Names all given in Journal.]	32

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.

Mount Zion Mission. [Names all given in Journal.]	15
Polo Circuit. " " " " "	14

MUSKINGUM CONFERENCE.

	No.
Nameless circuit. [Names all given in Journal]	4
Bethel " " " " "	14
Noble " " " " "	54

SANDUSKY CONFERENCE.

Osceola circuit. [Names all given in Journal]	120
Osceola " " " " "	62
VanBuren " " " " "	29
Carey " " " " "	16
Beaver " " " " "	26
Beaver " 2d Petition " " "	60
Shilo " " " " "	44
Cardington " " " " "	23

ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE.

Zion Class, Clear Creek Circuit. [Names all given in Journal]	68
Roanoke " " " " "	17
Pleasant Chapel.Clear Creek " " " " "	36
Warsaw " " " " "	86
Union Grove. Clear Creek " " " " "	17

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

Virginia Conference. [Names all given in Journal]	41

WEST DESMOINES CONFERENCE.

Newton. Council Bluffs. [Names all given in Journal]	19
Blair Circuit, Neb. " " " "	22

WESTERN RESERVE CONFERENCE.

Smithville Circuit. [Names all given in Journal]	39
Blackford Class, Ashland Mission. [Names all given in Journal]	40

HOMELESS PETITIONERS.

Note. The following Petitions are without names of circuit or conference, and minus date, beside bad manuscript,

[One Petition with]	50 names.
" " "	35 "
" " "	54 "
" " "	38 "
" " "	30 "
" " "	42 "
" " "	44 "
" " "	47 "

WESTERN COLLEGE, IOWA.

Western College, Iowa, - - - - - - - - - -	25 names.
Total number of petitioners, - - - - - - -	1,785.

N R LUCE *Recording Sec*
P. HURLESS *Acting Sec*
W MITTINDORF *German Sec*
1873.

PAGE 509 OF JOURNAL.

I. K. Statton, chairman of the Committee on Lay Delegation, reported.

PAGE 525 OF JOURNAL.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATION.

Your Committee on Lay Delegation would respectfully report the f l-lowing—

WHEREAS, We find a growing demand, from the laity of the Church for representation in the legislative body of the church, and—

WHEREAS, We as their representatives elect desire to comply with their petitions requesting this General Conference to submit the subject to a vote of the membership, therefore—

Resolved, That the following amendment of the Constitution be submitted to the vote of the Church, and that the following rules be adopted to regulate such election and provide for the proposed amendment.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Section 1st. All ecclesiastical power herein granted to enact or repeal any law or rule or [of] discipline is vested in a General Conference, which shall consist of elders and laymen elected in every Annual Conference district throughout the Church, provided such elders and laymen be twenty-five years of age and shall have held a membership of three years' standing in the Conference they represent.

Rules to regulate the election of lay delegates to the General Conference and to provide for amendment of the Constitution.

1st. That on the first Tuesday of November A. D. 1873 each and every class throughout the church shall assemble at its regular place of meeting and shall elect two members who in connection with the leader shall be Judges of the election. Then the judges shall proceed on the day aforesaid to hold an election and shall count the votes polled in the presence of those assembled, and shall take a list of all the names voting, inclose the same with the tally list in an envelope and forward it to the preacher in charge, retaining a copy for further reference.

2. The form of ballot to be voted shall read, "For Lay Delegation" or "Against Lay Delegation" as the case may be.

3. Each member of the church shall be entitled to vote in person, provided that in case of sickness or other disability such persons shall forward their ballot with their name, enclosed in an envelope, with the words, "lay delegation" written thereon to distinguish it from private correspondence, and forward it on or before the day of election. Then shall the judges open said letter and count the vote; provided that in no case shall such votes be counted after the day above mentioned.

4. The preacher in charge shall receive all tally lists from the various leaders, take a copy of the same and forward the original together with the number of members reported by himself or his predecessor at the last annual conference to the general tellers at Dayton, Ohio.

5. There shall be three tellers appointed by this General Conference to be known as the general tellers to receive the reports of the election on Lay Delegation from all the preachers in charge of fields of labor throughout the Church. They shall reside at Dayton, Ohio. They shall publish in the *Religious Telescope* on or before the first week in January the votes for and against lay delegation.

6. In case the requisite number of votes be cast for the movement, then shall Article first, Section 1st as above amended be the law of the Church, and all law or rules to the contrary shall stand repealed, and the senior Bishop of the Church shall make proclamation of the same.

7. In case of such proclamation then shall the laity of the Church be entitled to representation in the General Conference on the following basis; for every 2000 members, one delegate; for every fraction of 1000 and less than 2000 one delegate; provided each Annual Conference shall have one lay delegate.

8. Each Annual Conference shall regulate the election of its own delegates, appoint the time and provide for making nominations if necessary; provided such election is held before its last session preceeding the General Conference. It shall cause certificates of election to be issued to each delegate that signed by the Bishop and secretary. It shall provide for the expenses of delegates and attend to all the particulars relating to the election within the Conference bounds. Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

PAGE 509 OF JOURNAL.

On motion all speeches be limited to five minutes.

Z. A. Colestock moved to strike out the words "*District*" in 6th line and "*Elders*" in the 7th line of Article I. Section 1.

A motion to lay the item of amendment, and the Article under consideration on the table.

Bishop Weaver offered the following amendment— Provided such elders shall have stood in that capacity for at least three years, next preceding the sitting of the General Confer-

ence, and such laymen shall have been members of the Church at least six years.

Bishop Weaver withheld his amendment to grant a division of the question.

PAGE 517 OF JOURNAL.

J. Scammahorn moved to take up the item from the table referring to lay delegation, and the yeas and nays were called for on the item as follows—

All ecclesiastical power herein granted to enact or repeal any law or rule of discipline is vested in a General Conference which shall consist of elders and laymen elected in every conference district throughout the Church.

LAY DELEGATION.

Amendment to the Constitution Article 1st, Section 1st.

Yeas and Nays.

Yeas.—Glossbrenner, Edwards, Weaver, Dickson, Ambrose, Allaman, Best, Breden, Bowman, Beauchamp, Bishop, Bunce, Bulger, Brazee Baldwin, Carter, Connor, Colestock, Castle, Cowgill, Drury, Doyle, Davis, Dillon, Evans, Thos., Evans, J. R., Favour, Gelbach, Greene, Garst, Gardner, Gillespie, Griffith, Hoy, Hoffman, Hill, Hager, Healy, Harper, Hallowell, Hershey, Hamilton, Hott, Howe, Ham, Light, Luce, Lemasters, Miller, W., Miller, D. R., Millar, Wm. H., McGrew, Mills McKee, Martin, Mittendorf, Nye, Nickey, Osmun, Poulton, Plowman, Peters, Ross, Rose, Rigor, Speck, Sherk, D. B., Sherk, A. B., Shuck, Schwimley, Smith, W. C., Smith, J. C., Scammahorn, Statton, I. K., Sickafoose, Slaughter, Simpson, Thrasher, Tibbetts, Tritch, Vandever, Vardaman, Wagoner, Whitney, Walker, Booth, Warner, Williams, Wilkison, Wright, Watrous—90.

Nays.—Alwood, Alderman, Bay, Bacon, Barnaby Fritz, Hurless, Jacobs, Krtesinger, Scholler, Smith, O. F., Statton, G. W.—12.

PAGE 524 OF JOURNAL.

On motion the Subject of Lay Delegation was taken up.

W. McKee moved to amend item 1 by extending the time to Nov., 1873.

Allaman moved to further say October instead of November.

J. J. Glossbrenner moved that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, be laid on the table until item 7 be disposed of.

M. P. Doyle reported on Section 8 of Discipline.

PAGE 535 OF JOURNAL.

Section 8. Substitute for it. Provided the Constitutional amendment prevails.

1. The General Conference shall be composed, (see constitution).

2. Each annual conference shall be entitled to 3 elders only. Also one layman for every 2000 members, and one layman for every one thousand and less than 2000, provided that each conference shall have one lay delegate.

3. They shall be elected by the membership of the Church within the month of November next preceeding the General Conference.

4. Each Annual Conference shall elect 3 tellers to receive and count the votes and forward the result to the *Telescope* for publication. They shall keep a list of all the votes cast and of the names voted for and shall issue certificates of election to those receiving the requisite number of votes. They shall receive no votes after the 1st of January following the election.

5. The Annual Conference shall at its session preceeding the election, provide for the expense of the delegates and if necessary for the nomination of delegates. It shall also declare the number of lay delegates the conference is entitled to vote for, and name the elders eligible to be voted for.

Item 1 adopted.

" 2 J. A. Alwood moved to amend by saying "each annual conference shall be entitled to two elders and one layman.

H. Garst moved to amend the amendment so that there shall be one clerical and one lay representative for every 2000 members, and for every fraction of 1000 and less than 2000, provided that no conference shall have less than one clerical and one lay representative. On motion the yeas and nays were called for, and are as follows—Yeas 26 Nays 70. Neutral 1.

The amendment also lost and then the item No 7. was passed without amendment.

PAGE 525 OF JOURNAL.

Moved to refer all that portion of the Committee's report on lay delegation not yet acted upon to the Board of Bishops.

PAGE 528 OF JOURNAL.

H. Garst moved that the last clause in the constitution be so interpreted as to mean two thirds of all that vote.

J. K. Alwood moved to lay the matter on the table. Prevailed.

PAGE 529 OF JOURNAL.

D. R. Miller offered the following, which passed.

Resolved, That the explicit rendering of Art IV of the constitution be submitted to the Board of Bishops, and that they be requested to publish the same in the *Religious Telescope*.

PAGE 538 OF JOURNAL.

On motion the proceedings of this General Conference be published in full in pamphlet form.

DAYTON, OHIO, May 6, 1890.

The undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing extracts are correct copies from the manuscript journal of the General Conference of the United Brethren in Christ from 1815 to 1873 inclusive.

M. R. DRURY,
For the Liberals.
WILBUR WRIGHT,
For the Radicals.

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